

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A housing for an airbag module of a motor vehicle, the housing comprising:

a housing floor;

a first side wall having a first degree of deformation; and

a second side wall having a second degree of deformation, the first degree of deformation being greater than the second degree of deformation;

the first side wall defining a generally flat surface capable of deformation in response to a deformation force exerted generally in the direction of the housing floor and resisting deformation in response to a tensile force exerted generally in a direction away from the housing floor;

wherein the generally flat surface includes a plurality of deformation bridges arranged adjacent a plurality of cut-outs, the deformation bridges deformable to a predetermined final deformation geometry in response to the deformation force.

21. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the ~~first~~ second side wall integrally defines an acceptance area for a gas generator.

22. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the ~~first~~ second side wall includes a flange area with a ~~rotation or bending round~~ flange section around which an interior cladding element can be swivelled generally in the direction of the housing floor in response to ~~case of~~ deformation of the ~~second~~ first side wall.

23. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the ~~second~~ first side wall includes deformation elements in ~~[[a]]~~ the flat surface area which weaken the mechanical stability of the ~~second~~ first side wall.

24. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 23, wherein the deformation elements are integrally formed with the ~~include a~~ plurality of deformation bridges ~~arranged in the second side wall adjacent cut-outs.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 24, wherein the cut-outs are in the form of holes or individual seams.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the ~~second~~ first side wall is configured to only yield mechanically ~~after the application of~~ when the deformation force exceeds a predetermined force ~~[[F]]~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 26 ~~[[27]]~~, wherein the deformation bridges include integrally formed ~~exhibit~~ deformation structures ~~which are formed in~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein an injection channel is integrated into the housing for targeted unfolding of ~~[[the]]~~ an airbag of the airbag module, whose one channel wall is at least partially formed by the ~~second~~ first side wall.

30. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 23, wherein the ~~second~~ first side wall ~~is formed to include~~ a first side-wall part and a second side-wall part, the first ~~side-wall part formed in one piece with~~ defining the housing floor, the second ~~side-wall part formed by~~ defining the deformation bridges elements ~~formed on the first side-wall part~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 30, wherein free ends of the deformation bridges elements are connected with a flange area for fixing an interior cladding element.

32. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 31, wherein the deformation bridges elements, in their undeformed state, are at a defined distance to the first ~~second~~ side wall part and in the case of a deformation substantially support

themselves on ~~this first~~ the second side wall part crosswise to the deformation force ~~[[F]]~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 20, wherein a ~~first~~ second side housing part forms at least a part of a wall of the housing, the housing floor, an acceptance area for the airbag module and a first flange area with a rotation or bend round section, ~~the second~~ a first side housing part forms a plurality of deformation bridges and adjacent cut-outs, a second flange area for fixing of an interior cladding element, and an upper section of an injection channel.

34. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 33, wherein the ~~second~~ first side housing part ~~at least~~ substantially forms ~~[[an]]~~ the injection channel.

35. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 33, wherein a support element is integrally formed ~~in one piece on~~ with the housing floor, ~~of the housing or~~ integrally formed with the ~~first~~ second side housing part, or is fixed to ~~this by~~ fixing means one of the housing floor and second side housing part.

36. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 35, wherein the housing is formed as ~~[[an]]~~ the airbag module, in which ~~[[the]]~~ a gas generator, ~~[[the]]~~ an airbag, the deformation ~~section~~ bridges, the injection channel for the airbag as well as the first and second flange areas are configured for fixing of the interior cladding element.

37. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the housing includes an open side covered by a cover foil.

38. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 20, wherein the housing is formed as a passenger airbag module.

39. (New) An airbag module of a motor vehicle, the module comprising:
a housing for retaining an airbag;
a housing floor for attaching the housing to the motor vehicle;
a first side wall of the housing having a plurality of deformation bridges separated by a plurality of apertures; and

a second side wall of the housing having an extended portion at a predetermined distance to the first side wall, the extended portion oriented generally parallel to the first side wall prior to deformation of the first side wall;

wherein the housing is configured such that application of a deformation force to the first side wall generally in a direction of the housing floor deforms the deformation bridges the predetermined distance to the extended portion of the second side wall for controlled deformation of the first side wall.

40. (New) The airbag module of Claim 39, wherein the deformation bridges include integrally formed deformation structures for weakening the mechanical stability of the first side wall.

41. (New) An airbag housing of a motor vehicle comprising:

a floor for attaching the housing to the motor vehicle; and

a side upwardly extending from the floor, the side including a first wall portion and a deformable portion depending from the first wall portion, the deformable portion oriented generally parallel to the first wall portion and normally positioned a distance from the first wall portion, the deformable portion including a plurality of deformation bridges arranged adjacent a plurality of cut-outs, the deformable portion being deformable in response to a deformation force such that continued deformation is opposed by contact with the first wall portion.

42. (New) The airbag housing of claim 41, wherein the first wall portion is integrally formed with the floor.